



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

DATE:

JUL 17 2017

SUBJECT:

CLEAN AIR ACT INSPECTION REPORT
Earthmovers Landfill, LLC, Elkhart, Indiana

FROM:

Patrick Miller, Environmental Engineer
AECAB (MN/OH)

THRU:

Brian Dickens, Section Chief
AECAB (MN/OH)

TO:

File

BASIC INFORMATION

Facility Name: Earthmovers Landfill, LLC

Facility Location: 26488 County Road 26, Elkhart, Indiana 46517

Date of Inspection: May 3, 2017

Lead Inspector: Patrick Miller, Environmental Engineer

Other Attendees:

1. Ken Ruffatto, Environmental Engineer, US EPA
2. Vicky Mei, Environmental Engineer, US EPA
3. Paul Karkiewicz, Air Compliance Inspector, Indiana Department of Environmental Management
4. Fred Sawyers, Senior District Manager, Waste Management
5. Chak Chakraborty, Environmental Engineer, Waste Management
6. Steven Niehoff, Environmental Regional Manager, Waste Management
7. Randy Russell, Gas Operations Manager, Waste Management

Purpose of Inspection: Inspection following fire at the landfill

Facility Type: Landfill

Arrival Time: 11:30 AM
Departure Time: 2:30 PM

Inspection Type:

- ☒ Unannounced Inspection
- ☐ Announced Inspection

OPENING CONFERENCE

- ☒ Credentials Presented
- ☒ CBI warning to facility provided

The following information was obtained verbally from Fred Sawyers unless otherwise noted.

Process Description:

Earthmovers experienced a fire at the landfill that lasted three days from Wednesday, April 26, 2017 to Friday, April 28, 2017. At 3:45 am on Wednesday, April 26, the fire department was notified of a fire at the landfill. By 4:30 am Waste Management personnel were on site mobilizing equipment to begin fighting the fire. The fire began on the south end of the landfill where the previous day's operations ended and spread north covering 20 acres. The cause of the fire is unknown. Air quality monitoring was performed by US EPA on-site coordinators ending Friday, April 28.

The fire spread quickly when the fire department stopped firefighting operations due to safety concerns with visibility issues from smoke and high winds between 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM on Wednesday, April 26. By 5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 26, operators were back on the landfill fighting the fire. The National Guard was called in on Thursday, April 27, to help with dousing the fire with water. Water was not an adequate firefighting technique. Clay soil spreading was effective at smothering the fire. Clay soil was borrowed from areas on the west side of the landfill property. By Friday, April 28, the fire was 90% contained and by 2:00 PM there was no smoke from the landfill. During this time the landfill stopped all operations and did not receive any trucks.

The fire appeared to be a surficial burn however the fire burned deeper at gas well head locations. The gas collection system was operated as long as possible to keep a negative pressure on the fire damaged area. The fire damaged area of the gas collection system was isolated from the rest of the system and gas collection continued from the remaining wells. Twenty-four wells were damaged by the fire and will be replaced later in May during already planned gas collection system expansion. New headers and wells will be installed in the fire damaged area.

The landfill is approximately 96 acres with roughly 90 feet of fill remaining. The landfill receives approximately 280,000 tons of waste per year and has about 7-8 years of remaining life. The landfill has a clay liner and leachate collection system on the north half and a synthetic liner on the south half. The landfill receives municipal solid waste, trailer manufacturing waste, and some construction and demolition waste. Emissions are calculated using emission factors. Sulfur dioxide emissions would come from dry wall or other construction and demolition waste. There

are six engines in the gas plant and one flare with a total combined flow of 2,219 scfm of collected gas.

TOUR INFORMATION

EPA toured the facility: Yes

Field Measurements: were not taken during this inspection.


CLOSING CONFERENCE

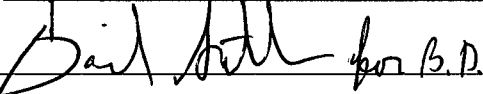
Requested documents:

- Design Plan for gas collection system rebuild work
- 2016-2017 surface monitoring reports
- January 2017- April 2017 wellhead reports
- NSPS Reports 2016
- Quarterly Reports 2017
- Last two construction phases (2015-2016)
- Triannual reports for 2010, 2013, and 2016
- Map of site with cells and gas well locations

Concerns: There was general concern with any delay in getting a new gas collection system within the fire damaged area installed and operating. While there were no odor complaints or readings during the surface monitoring, it was shortly after the fire was extinguished. As the clay cover and underlying trash begins to dry, the likelihood of odors and readings increases.

SIGNATURES

Lead Inspector:  Date: 7/7/17

Section Chief:  for B.D. Date: 7/7/17

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APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A – Photo Log

Facility Name: Earthmovers Landfill LLC

Facility Location: 26488 County Road 26, Elkhart, Indiana 46517

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APPENDIX A: PHOTO LOG

Facility Name: Earthmovers Landfill LLC

Facility Location: 26488 County Road 26, Elkhart, Indiana 46517

Date of Inspection: May 3, 2017



I: P5030001.JPG

Location: Earthmovers Landfill LLC

Photographer: Patrick Miller

Date/Time: 5/3/2017 12:11 PM

Camera Direction: North

Description: Fire damaged area with clay cover

Facility Name: Earthmovers Landfill LLC

Facility Location: 26488 County Road 26, Elkhart, Indiana 46517

Date of Inspection: May 3, 2017



2: P5030002.JPG

Location: Earthmovers Landfill LLC

Photographer: Patrick Miller

Date/Time: 5/3/2017 12:11 PM

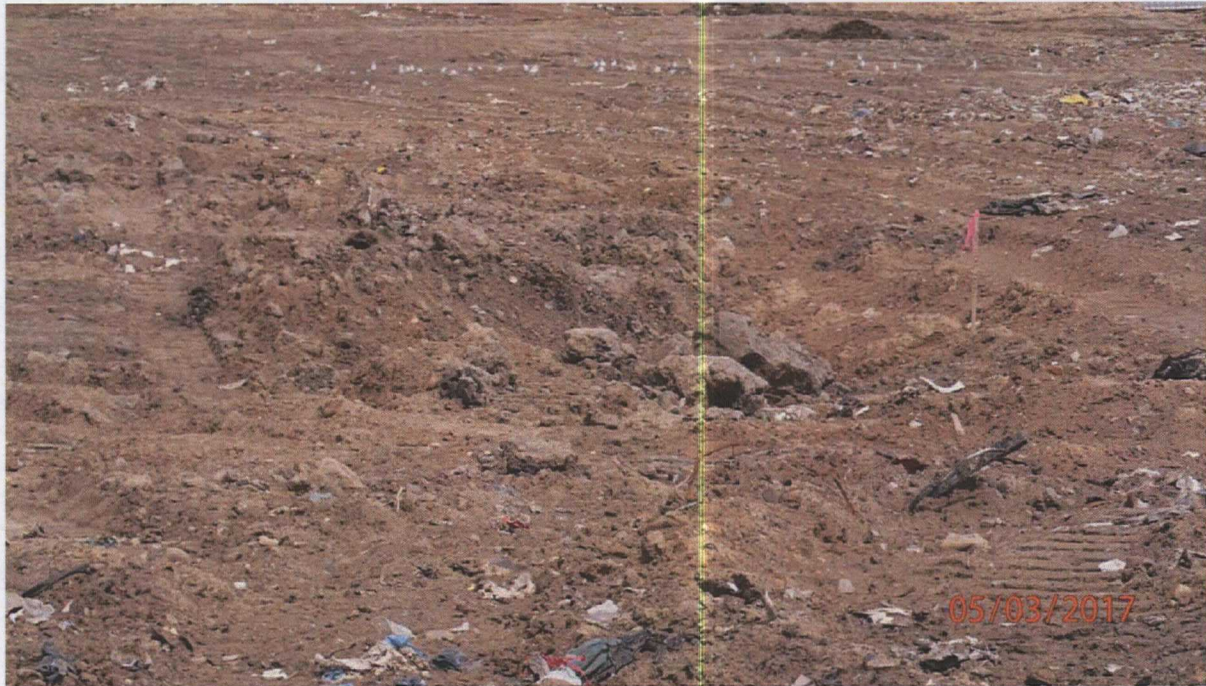
Camera Direction: Northwest

Description: Fire damaged area with clay cover; sunken well head area on right-center of picture (stake with orange ribbon)

Facility Name: Earthmovers Landfill LLC

Facility Location: 26488 County Road 26, Elkhart, Indiana 46517

Date of Inspection: May 3, 2017



3: P5030003.JPG

Location: Earthmovers Landfill LLC

Photographer: Patrick Miller

Date/Time: 5/3/2017 12:12 PM

Camera Direction: North

Description: Close up of sunken fire damaged well head area

Facility Name: Earthmovers Landfill LLC

Facility Location: 26488 County Road 26, Elkhart, Indiana 46517

Date of Inspection: May 3, 2017



4: P5030004.JPG

Location: Earthmovers Landfill LLC

Photographer: Patrick Miller

Date/Time: 5/3/2017 12:13 PM

Camera Direction: Northeast

Description: Clay covered fire damaged area with resumed operations going on in the background